Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01

SAM-01 SAB-01 FSI-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OC-05 SY-05

/084 W

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O R 291010Z OCT 75 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6893 INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF AMERICANS IN LEBANON

REF: STATE 254985; STATE 255960

- 1. OFFICIAL DEPARTURES FROM EMBASSY THROUGH OCTOBER 28 NUMBER 60 (INCLUDING 5 FSI STUDENTS AND 5 DEPENDENTS WHOSE EVACUATION ORDERS WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE CHANGED TO TDY AT TUNIS). SEVEN OTHER ENROUTE TO POST HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO DELAY RETURN.
- 2. SCHEDULED DEPARTURES AS OF MORNING OCTOBER 29 NUMBER $100\ \mathrm{MORE}.$
- 3. IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE NUMBER OF AMERICAN DEPARTURES IN NON-GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY. CALLS TO COMMUNITY LEADERS CONFIRM OUR BELIEF THAT AT LEAST 70 PCT OF DEPENDENTS HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEFT OR WILL LEAVE IN NEXT 48 HOURS. NEW REGISTRANTS

OR RE-REGISTRANTS AS OF MORNING OCTOBER 29 TOTALLED 1300 (MANY OF WHOM HAVE LEFT SINCE REGISTERING). ON THE OTHER HAND DIFFICULTIES OF COMMUNICATION IN LEBANON MAKE US DOUBT THAT ALL AMERICANS HAVE REGISTERED. THEREFORE WE WOULD ESTIMATE AS MANY AS 2,500 AMERICAN CITIZENS REMAIN IN THE LEBANON, THOUGH AT LEAST 1500 ARE DUAL NATIONALS AND OTHERS WHO DO NOT WISH EVACUATION.

4. EMBASSY IS SCHEDULING DEPARTURE OF ADDITIONAL LESS-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL IN ORDERLY MANNER.WORD OF VOLUNTARY DEPARTURES HAS GOTTEN AROUND TO ENTIRE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. SOME PEOPLE LIVING IN NORTHERN SUBURBS OF BEIRUT, AS WELL AS OTHER MOUNTAIN AREAS AROUND THE CITY, PREFER TO REMAIN IN PLACE AND COULD NOT SAFELY BE MOVED TO ANY CENTRAL EVACUATION POINT AT THIS STAGE. NO EVIDENCE THAT EXODUS HAS REACHED PROPORTION BEYOND CAPABILITY OF NORMAL COMMERCIAL AIRLINES TO HANDLE. MEA RUNNING SPECIAL FLIHTS TO ATHENS. AIRPORT ACCESS STILL RELATIVELY EASY. WHILE PIECEMEAL REPORTS WILL CONTINUE (E.G. BEIRUT 13376, 13377, 13387, 13391) WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF OVERALL FIGURES AT LEAST DAILY.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: EVACUATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, PROGRESS REPORTS

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